

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CANBER 09037 160120Z
ACTION EA-09

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CANBERRA 9037

EO 11652: NA
TAGS: ELAB, AS
SUBJ: FRASER-HAWKE ECONOMIC QTE SUMMIT END QTE PRODUCES
LITTLE

1. PRIME MINISTER FRASER EMERGED FROM 4-HOUR MEETING WITH
ACTU PRESIDENT HAWKE DEC 13 EXPRESSING DISAPPOINTMENT WITH
QTE OLD PROPOSALS DRESSED UP IN NEW CLOTHING, END QTE I.E.
WAGE RESTRAIN IN EXCHANGE FOR TAX CUTS. LATER ON FRASER
SAID QTE I'M AFRAID THAT I NEVER REALLY BELIEVED THAT THERE
WERE GREAT HOPES FOR AN AGREEMENT WITH TRADE UNION MOVE-
MENT. I THINK OUT OF THE DISCUSSIONS IT WAS QUITE PLAIN THAT
A REAL AGREEMENT WAS VERY UNLIKELY. END QTE.

2. HAWKE EMERGED FROM MEETING WITH ANNOUNCEMENT THAT PARTIES
HAD AGREED TO CONTINUE TALKS AT TECHNICAL LEVELS ON ANTI-
INFLATIONARY AND EMPLOYMENT-PRODUCING WAYS AND MEANS OF MAIN-
TAINING REAL WAGES WHILE NOT NECESSARILY INSISTING ON FULL
QUARTERLY WAGE INDEXATION.

3. TWO JOINT WORKING GROUPS TO BE SET UP IN NEAR FUTURE WILL
EXAMINE (1) ACTU PROPOSAL FOR BILLION DOLLAR TAX CUT AS
COMPENSATION FOR WAGE RESTRAINT AND (2) POSSIBILITY OF AMAL-
GAMATING UNIONS AND EMPLOYER ORGANIZATIONS SO AS TO ENABLE
THEM TO FUNCTION ALONG INDUSTRIAL AS WELL AS CRAFT LINES.

4. COMMENT: ACTU EXECUTIVE'S UNANIMOUS DECISION TO PERMIT
HAWKE TO PARTICIPATE IN TALKS WITH FRASER AND ITS 13-5
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DECISION TO HONOR EXISTING CONTRACTS FOR MINING AND EXPORT OF

MARY KATHLEEN MINE URANIUM ORE APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN ONLY
MAJOR DECISIONS EXECUTIVE MADE DURING WEEK OF DISCUSSIONS ON
RANGE OF BASIC ISSUES. PRACTICAL EFFECT OF RELEGATING
HAWKE'S TAX CUT PROPOSAL TO WORKING GROUP DESPITE CONTIN-
UING PARTISAN EXCHANGE IN PUBLIC IS TO PUT OFF EITHER AGREE-
MENT OR CONFRONTATION UNTIL EARLY 1977 WHEN ARBITRATION
COMMISSION WILL MEET TO CONSIDER WAGE INCREASES BASED ON
MEDIBANK-EFFECTED FINAL QUARTER OF 1976.
HARGROVE

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Message Attributes

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